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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In April 1954, prior to its arrival in the port of Novorossiysk, [redacted] ship was met by a patrol vessel which escorted it into port, where the usual inspection took place.
2. The oil pier, which was obsolete, had berths for two large tankers. The depth at the pier was not more than 25 feet. Ships drawing more than 25 feet had to keep three to four meters from the pier during loading. [redacted]
[redacted]
three to four meters from the pier was slightly over 27 feet. A Soviet tanker of the same size as [redacted] ship lay at the pier at the same time as [redacted] ship, and the same procedure took place there. Music and propaganda was broadcast from the Soviet ship 24 hours a day.
3. A minesweeper and a patrol vessel were moored at a small wharf. These were the only naval vessels observed in the harbor.
4. Ships which berthed at a small dry cargo pier in the port had to load and unload with their own winches, as there were no cranes on the pier. Most of the piers were in poor condition and little repair work was in progress. Warehouses and other buildings also were in a bad state of repair. 25X1
5. Two soldiers armed with machine guns stood guard on the pier at which [redacted] ship moored and checked landing passes. A sentry box at which three guards were stationed was situated at the exit gate. Each crew member had to present his pass and obtain the chief guard's permission to go through the gate. [redacted] the Soviets had received instructions to be especially friendly and accommodating to every foreigner. They refused to accept any payment for services. 25X1

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6. Bombed-out buildings had been reconstructed and a large number of new dwellings had been built in the city. Many dwellings were still under construction. In all directions in the town the buildings were well kept, and only the port area appeared to be in its original poor condition.

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7. The patrons at the restaurants, which were frequented by all classes, ate at least three dishes. The food was inexpensive and of good quality and portions were generous. The townspeople, many of whom were military personnel, were for the most part quite well-dressed.

[redacted] the local population [redacted] seemed satisfied and well fed and were very friendly.

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[redacted] There seemed to be a relatively good supply of goods in the stores. A pair of shoes cost 200 rubles. The rate of exchange was not favorable for foreigners. Loudspeakers broadcast propaganda through the city.

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